Author's response to reviews

Title: Alcohol consumption in Estonia and Finland: Finbalt survey 1994-2006

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Author's response to reviews: see over
29. January 2010

Melissa Norton,
Editor-in-Chief, BMC Public Health

Re: Revised manuscript 1488007606273069

Dear Melissa Norton,

January 29, 2010

Please find attached revised manuscript Alcohol consumption in Estonia and Finland: Finbalt survey 1994–2006. This version was approved by all the authors.

We are very grateful to associate editor for the comments. We hereby detail the changes made to our manuscript in response to the reviewers' comments.

Looking forward to hear from you,

Yours sincerely,

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Associate Editor comments:

1. I feel the paper would benefit from being read by a someone who has greater experience of writing for English journals. It is at times still rather stilted especially in the results and abstract. Needs to be written so that it flows more.

The colleague with much greater experience of writing for English journals red the manuscript through. His suggestions were discussed and changes in the manuscript were done to make the text more flowing.

On numerous occasion the phrase "the odds to drinking alcohol" or similar is used. Please use something like the "chances of drinking alcohol".

Thank you for useful suggestion. Now different alternative phrases were used instead of `odds to drinking alcohol` to express odds ratio.

My main concern lies with the discussion and to a lesser extent the introduction. I have no quibble with the Finish or Estonian data however e.g reference 4 Rehm et al is old. There is more recent EU data available and I suggest the author uses as their main reference point.

Reference 4 was replaced with more recent EU data:

Editorial request:
We recommend that you ask a native English speaking colleague to help you copyedit the paper. If this is not possible, you may need to use a professional copyediting service. Examples are those provided by the Manuscript Presentation Service (www.biomedes.co.uk), International Science Editing (http://www.internationalscienceediting.com/) and English Manager Science Editing (http://www.sciencemanager.com/). BioMed Central has no first-hand experience of these companies and can take no responsibility for the quality of their service.

Copyediting service of BiomedES (www.biomedes.co.uk) was used to improve the quality of English writing and to make the text more flowing.

Yours sincerely,

Kersti Pärna
corresponding author